

What is claimed is:

1. A method of navigating from a current selection to a desired selection within an ordered playlist of selections for reproduction by a multimedia player, each selection in said ordered playlist having a corresponding selection number, said multimedia player having a rotary position encoder for controlling audio volume and a plurality of push button controls, said method comprising the steps of:

maintaining said rotary position encoder in a volume adjust mode;

displaying a respective selection number of said current selection on a display;

activating one of said push button controls and switching to a track access mode of said rotary position encoder in response thereto;

detecting rotation of said rotary position encoder in either a clockwise direction or a counterclockwise direction;

displaying respective selection numbers for interim selections on said display according to said detected rotation, wherein said interim selection is recurrently advanced in response to successive rotation in said clockwise direction over a predetermined resolution angle and is recurrently rolled back in response to said rotation in said counterclockwise direction of said predetermined resolution angle;

detecting an absence of rotation of said rotary position encoder lasting for a first predetermined time, wherein an interim selection having its selection number being displayed after said first predetermined time comprises a chosen selection; and

reproducing said chosen selection.

2. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of:

maintaining said track access mode for a second predetermined time after initiating reproduction of said chosen selection; and

reverting to said volume adjust mode in response to an absence of rotation of said rotary position encoder lasting for said second predetermined time.

5 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

 reverting to said volume adjust mode in response to an activation of said one of said push button controls during prior to said first predetermined time or prior to said second
10 predetermined time; and

 reproducing said interim selection if not already being reproduced.

15 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

 flashing a predetermined icon in said display during said track access mode.

20 5. The method of claim 1 wherein said multimedia player reproduces said selections from a predetermined media, wherein said selections are stored on said media in a plurality of numbered directories, and wherein said recurrent advancing of interim selection numbers moves to a first selection in a next succeeding directory after a last
25 selection in a directory is reached.

 6. The method of claim 5 wherein said recurrent rollback of interim selection numbers moves to a last selection in a next preceding directory after a first
30 selection in a directory is reached.

35 7. The method of claim 1 wherein said multimedia player reproduces said selections from a predetermined media, wherein said selections are stored on said media in a plurality of numbered directories, and wherein said playlist is comprised of substantially all selections on said media without reference to said numbered directories.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said recurrent advancing or rolling-back of said interim selection numbers wraps between a first selection number and a last selection number in said ordered playlist.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said current selection continues to be reproduced during said recurrent advancing or rolling-back of said interim selection.

10. A media player for reproducing selections from a storage media containing an ordered playlist of selections, each selection in said ordered playlist having a corresponding selection number, said media player having manual navigation from a current selection to a desired selection within said playlist, said media player comprising:

a display for displaying selection numbers;

a rotary position encoder generating rotation signals when manually rotated through a predetermined angular resolution in either a clockwise or a counterclockwise direction;

an audio circuit for providing selectable gain of said reproduction in response to said rotation signals when said rotary position encoder is in a volume adjust mode;

a user control push button for initiating a track access mode of said rotary position encoder; and

a controller responsive to said rotation signals for displaying respective selection numbers for interim selections on said display, wherein said interim selection is recurrently advanced in response to successive rotation in said clockwise direction and is recurrently rolled back in response to said rotation in said counterclockwise direction, for detecting an absence of rotation of said rotary position encoder lasting for a first predetermined time, and for reproducing as a new current selection an interim selection having its selection number displayed after said first predetermined time.

11. The media player of claim 10 wherein said display includes a text display for displaying a mode change message when said track access mode is selected.

5 12. The media player of claim 11 wherein said mode change message is replaced by said interim selection numbers during said recurrent advancing or rolling-back of said interim selection numbers.

10 13. The media player of claim 10 wherein said display includes an icon that is flashingly illuminated during said track access mode.

15 14. The media player of claim 10 wherein said selections are stored on said storage media in a plurality of numbered directories, and wherein said recurrent advancing of interim selection numbers moves to a first selection in a next succeeding directory after a last selection in a directory is reached.

20 15. The media player of claim 14 wherein said recurrent rollback of interim selection numbers moves to a last selection in a next preceding directory after a first selection in a directory is reached.

25 16. The media player of claim 10 wherein said storage media is a CD-ROM disc, said media player further comprising a CD mechanism.

30 17. The media player of claim 10 wherein said selections are encoded in MP3 format, said media player further comprising a decoder coupled between said storage media and said audio circuit.